



STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE EMERGENCIES OCCUR:

It's understandable for a person to be flustered and forgetful during an emergency or other stressful time. Most people don't take emergency service into consideration when building their homes, attending local events, the unexpected financial demands. But there are things you can do right now to assist you and the responders if and when an event occurs. The more organized and prepared you are before an emergency, the better the response.

☐ **Identifying your home is vital for first responders.** When responders are paged for an emergency in the middle of the night visibility is poor, especially in the driving-pouring rain or blizzard like conditions. Post your house number near the front entrance of your home (*by the front door or above the garage door for example*). The numbers should be visible from the road with adequate light for evenings.

☐ Often responders will use mailboxes to locate your home. If your mailbox is out by the road, for your safety and to reduce response time, post large reflective house numbers on your mailbox.

☐ Place your current list of medications, doctors info & contact person(s) on your refrigerator and by your telephone for when first responders arrive.

☐ Teach young children how to dial 9•1•1 and the appropriate use of 9•1•1. Crank calling 9•1•1 is punishable by law.

☐ **Prevent any distractions for emergency responders.** When responders arrive, they will want to provide you with the best quality care. If you have pets, secure your pets before help arrives. Make arrangements for pet care in the event you would need to be transported to the hospital.

☐ Follow the dispatcher's instructions. They are certified in emergency medical procedures and can provide vital instructions to you before the ambulance arrive.

☐ **Know your location!** If you are traveling, know the mile marker, what township or borough you are in, the name of the building etc. Know the address! **If we can't find you, we can't help you.**

☐ Be aware of your surroundings. If you are a witness to a crime, descriptions of the person(s) are important (*tall or short, slender or heavy, color of hair, are they wearing glasses, tattoos, birthmarks, clothing colors*), and what type of vehicle they are traveling in (*car, truck, van, tractor/trailer, make of vehicle? Ford, Chevy, Dodge, color,*) is anyone injured, are there weapons present? These are just a few of the questions you will be asked.

☐ **Enroll for a membership with your local ambulance service.** In an emergency, the last thing you want to worry about is the bill. Most insurance plans do not cover the full cost of ambulance service. Whatever your insurance pays will be accepted as payment in full for emergency ambulance service covered under your membership, even if your insurance only pays a portion of the bill or denies the claim! Call your local ambulance service and sign up today.

☐ If you have a lock box, entry code or if you are an elderly person living alone with serious medical issues, please take a moment to fill out the **Residential Emergency Response Form** on our *Forms & Links* page. This information aids responders during a call to your home.

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